

County, California, where diverse conditions from the low coastal points to the heights of Mount Tamalpais result in a large number of different plants growing in a limited area . . . presents a general description of the region and its flora, emphasizing the close relationship between the geologic history and the distribution of the plants, and identifies the 1,452 species and varieties which grow wild in Marin."

With these two titles, Academy scientists are making conspicuous contributions to the natural science literature of the Pacific Coast.

THIS SOUND RIGHT, DOCTOR HERALD?

MOST ANYTHING HAPPENS at the Steinhart Aquarium, like having fish that walk around on four legs angling for other fish—with fly rods, and like getting mixed up with goings on at San Francisco's Cow Palace (you know, where they have the Horse Show).

Comes now from Miami (Florida), *Ogocephalus*—batfish—on all fours (along with a sea horse or two, which have no legs but only masquerade with horse-faces), wearing a Greek family name which means "bulky head." Whether this implies extra space to accommodate an inflated batfish ego or an augmented quota of belfry bats is not specified; we incline to the latter explanation—Oggie the Head certainly does crazy things for a fish. Specifically, he plants firmly on the bottom his front and back feet (time was, along when his family tree was a sprout, these were, respectively, pectoral and pelvic fins, as with all sensible fish), and casts with a little rod through a hole in his nose in the direction of any small fry within luring range. The stupid little brine shrimps and such are fascinated with the gimmick, come close for a better look-see. Oggie has a large mouth, too.

Getting on to the Cow Palace: if you are planning to attend the Third Annual Northern California Sportsmen's and Vacation Show there, March 25 to April 3, look for the Steinhart Aquarium display, "A Parasite of Fish—Life History of the Bluegill Parasite."

SEVENTH PACIFIC SCIENCE CONGRESS

"THE NEW ZEALAND CONGRESS reached a new high in good fellowship, good will, and serious accomplishment," the Academy's Director, Dr. R. C. Miller, reports in an article written after his return in March from the Seventh Pacific Science Congress, at which he represented the Academy, the National Research Council, and the A. A. A. S. In his article, "Flight into Tomorrow," which will appear shortly in the March-April *Pacific Discovery*, Dr. Miller goes on to say, "With delegates present from at least twenty nations, members of the Congress had a chance to renew old friendships, build new ones, and inform themselves on scientific progress in the Pacific area during and since the war years. It seemed symbolic that New Zealand was just a little west of the International Date Line. In our discussions we were moving into tomorrow."

ACADEMY NEWS LETTER

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P & G MATTISON

Drawing by Patricia and George Mattison

NORTHERN FLYING SQUIRREL (*Glaucomys sabrinus*)

One of 36 animal drawings in *Mammals of Lake Tahoe* by Robert T. Orr.

(See page 3)

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April Announcement

THE REGULAR APRIL MEETING of the California Academy of Sciences will be held in North American Hall, West Wing of the Academy Buildings in Golden Gate Park, on Wednesday evening, April 6, 1949, at 8 o'clock. The last of the spring series of lectures on the Walter B. Scaife Foundation will be given by the Reverend George M. Link, whose illustrated talk will be entitled

ALLURING ALASKA

It is not too late to save the tremendous natural resources and the wild life of Alaska from the destructive inroads of civilization, Father Link points out, if we protect them now and use them wisely. By so doing, we may yet keep Alaska from suffering the fate of most of the rest of North America. Here is territory still to be developed and populated, in a time when we are aware as never before of the tragic results of uncontrolled exploitation, and know, as never before, successful, proven techniques of conservation.

To see the color film "Alluring Alaska"—produced by first-rank nature photographers and presented by one of our leading amateur naturalists—is to hope fervently that this beauty of forests, meadows, mountain ranges, this abundance of wild life, will not be destroyed.

More than naturalist and conservationist, Father Link has become widely known and respected for his work in the guidance of boys, through Scouting, through Notre Dame University, and through his own "Trail Rangers of America." The latter might be termed a program for preventing so-called juvenile delinquency by directing youthful energies into constructive interest in nature and general outdoor activities.

The public is cordially invited to hear the Reverend George M. Link.

TOSHIO ASAEDA ON EXHIBITS STAFF

FACING THE ENORMOUS TASK of planning, building, and installing exhibits in the Academy's new Hall of Science now under construction, the Exhibits staff was happy to welcome in March another Assistant Preparator, Mr. Toshio Asaeda, who brings with him a combination of skills and experience rare in the museum field today.

Born in Tokyo, Toshio Asaeda learned the biological and geographical sciences in the Teachers' College of that city before coming to the University of Chicago

in 1923. After a period of free-lancing as a decorative artist in New York, he spent a year or more in the exhibits department of the American Museum of Natural History, under the exacting and distinguished direction of Dr. James Clark. In 1925 Mr. Asaeda came to the California Academy of Sciences as an artist for the Department of Ichthyology, returning in 1927 to the American Museum where he remained until the end of 1929.

An interest in photography dating from his student days in Japan led to his winning, in 1929, first prize in a national contest sponsored by the Eastman Kodak Company and to a position with the Natural Color Photography Studio in San Francisco. In 1930-31 he cruised the South Pacific as photographer-artist with the Zane Grey expedition. With all this experience behind him, he was a natural choice as photographer and artist with Templeton Crocker's California Academy of Sciences Expedition to the Galápagos Islands in 1932, thereafter accompanying the Academy's late benefactor on his various scientific voyages in the Pacific Ocean during the years 1933-38. Of these cruises, those of 1934-35 and 1936 were sponsored by the American Museum, those of 1937 and 1938 by the New York Zoological Society's Department of Tropical Research under the directorship of Dr. William Beebe.

Returning to the Academy in 1939, Toshio Asaeda prepared the more than 400 color drawings of fishes which are above the tanks in the Steinhart Aquarium. From 1940 to 1942 he maintained his own photographic studio in San Francisco. After the indignity of wartime relocation centers, he was engaged in 1947 as preparator in paleontology at the California Institute of Technology (readers of *Pacific Discovery* will recall his photograph of fossil starfish illustrating Dr. Durham's brief article in the May-June 1948 issue). He remained in Pasadena until this year when he came once more to the Academy and a position requiring a man of scientific training and many technical and artistic skills.

ACADEMY AUTHORS

FIRST REGULAR trade book to bear the Academy's imprint, Dr. Robert T. Orr's *Mammals of Lake Tahoe* was issued March 21 to launch a C. A. S. program of publishing books in the natural sciences. The author, who is Curator of Birds and Mammals in the Academy and Assistant Professor of Biology in the University of San Francisco, conceived the idea of a book on the Tahoe region's mammals nearly twenty years ago when he was a graduate student at the University of California under the famous Professor Joseph Grinnell. His book, which is handsomely illustrated in black-and-white by George and Patricia Mattson, is worthy fulfillment of a lifelong ambition.

And speaking of books, the Spring and Summer 1949 list just issued by the University of California Press has it that John Thomas Howell's *Flora of Marin County, California* will be ready June 30. This book by the Academy's Curator of Botany "lists and describes the plants that are native or have become naturalized in Marin